ACCOUNTS OF 1115

I am happy to state that the actual surplus of last year, *i.e.*, 1115, was very much better than what we had expected. As is pointed out in the explanatory memorandum of the Finance Member, it has amounted to Rs. 10·77 lakhs, although the budget forecast was Rs. 5·06 lakhs, and the anticipation, according to the revised budget, was Rs. 7·87 lakhs. It is proposed to transfer a sum of Rs. 8 lakhs from this to the Revenue Reserve Fund.

REVISED ESTIMATE FOR 1116 M. E.

In the current year, our receipts were estimated at Rs. 114·50 lakhs and our expenditure at Rs. 108·97 lakhs. The revised estimates, however, stand at Rs. 120·23 lakhs and Rs. 111·67 lakhs, receipts and expenditure, respectively. The reasons for the variations have been clearly explained in the Finance Member's memorandum, and I do not want to repeat them here. All that I would like to do is to draw the attention of the Honourable Members to the fact that, if we deduct the two exceptional items of expenditure, namely, Rs. ·91 lakh under the Air Raid Precautions defence measures and incidental arrangements, and a further sum of Rs. 1·50 lakhs towards cyclone relief measures, the revised budget figure for expenditure would only be Rs. 109·26 lakhs. The fact that there is thus only a very slight variation in expenditure as between the original and the revised budget estimates is, I venture to submit, a clear proof of the rigid supervision and control exercised by Government over expenditure in all departments of activity.

COCHIN PORT

A word about the port and the harbour railway before I pass on to the figures for 1117. During the year ending 31st March, 1941, the major works connected with the fourth stage of development of the harbour were finished. The building of the civil aerodrome at Willingdon Island, which was entrusted to the port's agency, was begun during the year, and satisfactory progress has been made. The harbour railway was opened for passenger traffic from 1st October, 1940. The new passenger berth, to which reference was made in the last year's budget speech, was used for the first time in November 1940, and the passengers landed direct from the steamer on to a floating stage connected by a floating gangway to the shore. It was an interesting coincidence that among the passengers who landed on 29th November, 1940, was Sir Albion Banerjee, a distinguished Diwan of the State who had played a prominent part in the early stages of the development of the harbour.

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